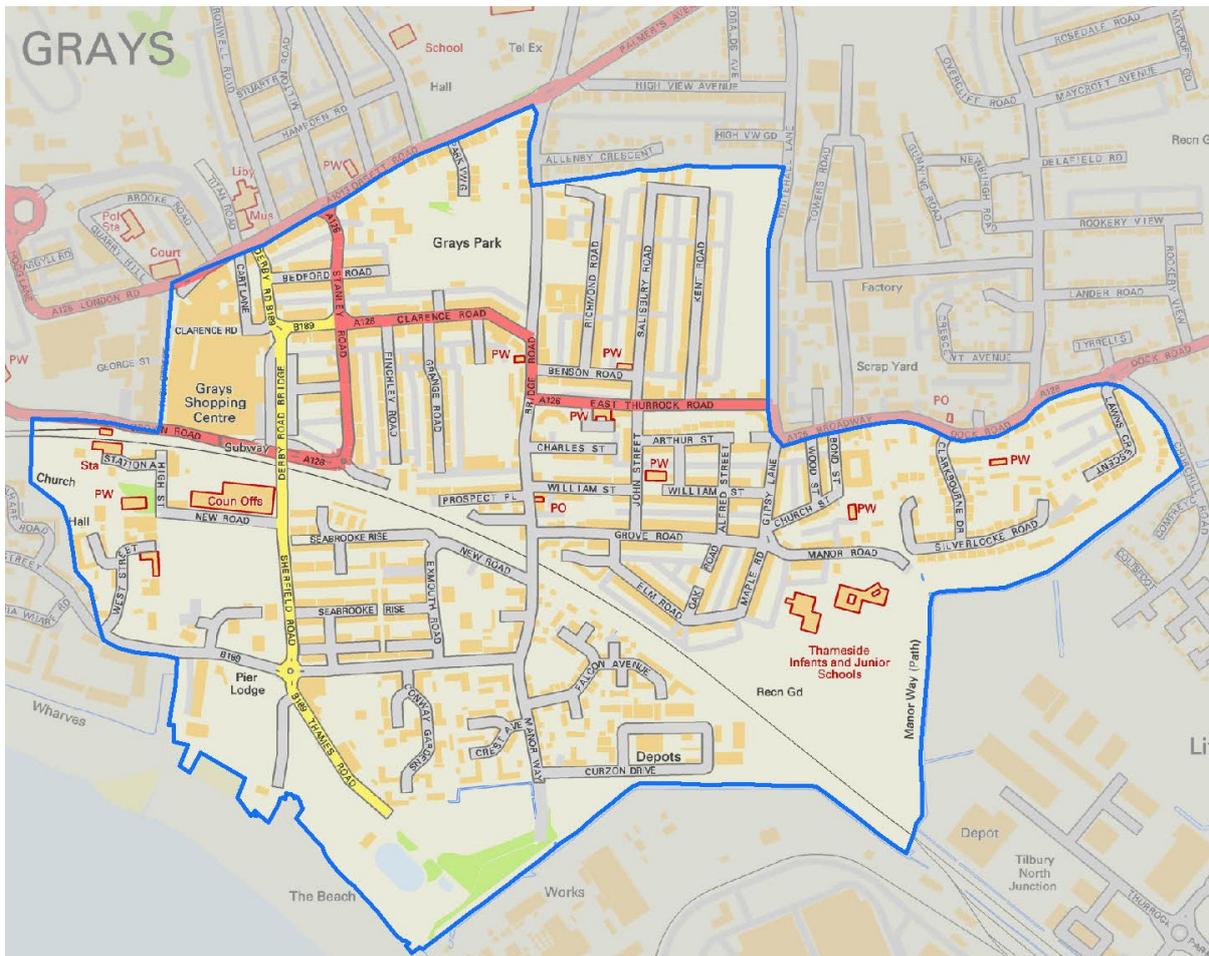


Riverside Community

Together building our community for the future

Big Local Plan 2016-18



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Introduction

Grays Riverside Community Big Local is now in its second full year of operation. The latest review and financial spending documentation will be sent separately, so this document forms the basis of the Partnership Board's planned activity from October 2016 to September 2018.

The Partnership Board's Mission Statement is:

“Together building our community for the future”

And its vision is to...

- **Create and/or enhance a sense of community across the area**
- **Create opportunities for business start-ups especially social entrepreneurs in the area**
- **Provide a sense of identity through a range of activities**
- **Provide activities for young people especially those that raise aspirations**
- **Create ways in which Riverside Community will be sustainable beyond the 10 years life of Big Local**

It is the local residents in our community who drive Big Local in the area and this year we were able to recruit a full complement of local residents to the Partnership Board through a successful AGM and Community Engagement Event.

As a result of that event, local people responded with a more focussed set of project priorities which are reflected in this plan.

The main achievement, amongst many, this year has been the successful recruitment of a Community Project Worker who has been able to connect local people to the established priorities so that projects now have the suitable leadership to be successful.

We are in the stages of establishing Task Groups who focus on differing aspects of the needs and opportunities within the local community, and they will act as governors for each of the projects and report progress to the Partnership Board on a regular basis.

This plan has been the result of much consultation and liaison with partners, other funders and the community and has been approved at the last two Partnership Board meetings in July and September 2016 respectively.

The Task Groups

The following task groups will be fully established by December 2016, these are linked to the Vision as described.

Enterprise – Raising aspirations and improving the local economy and making Riverside Community Big Local sustainable

Environment – Improving the physical environment

Events – Creating a sense of identity and belonging

Young People – Raising aspirations of the Young People

Communication – Telling the story of a vibrant community and to connect the community to itself.

The Projects

Enterprise

Thurrock Soup – A series of events that connect with and encourage Social Entrepreneurs to share their ideas in a bid for small amounts of start-up funding. In partnership with Thurrock Council.

Desired outcome: To help residents create social enterprises and new businesses through seed funding and support

School of Social Entrepreneurs – A specialist training programme to equip local Social Entrepreneurs with the best information and skills for running a successful Social Enterprise. Run in Partnership with School for Social Entrepreneurs Easter Region and Thurrock Council.

Desired outcome: To enable start-up Social Enterprises to be successful and have a greater impact on the local area.

Community House – To provide a grant to Seabrooke Rise Community Association to open and run a brand new community centre from which many Big Local projects could form.

Desired outcome: To create much needed community space in the area for community building activities.

Grays Beach Park Cafe – To provide start-up monies for an in-house Social Enterprise running a profitable Café in a much used local park.

Desired outcome: To transform a local park and create a sustainable business that provides training and support for volunteers.

Pop-up Market – To host a series of pop up markets inside Queensgate Centre for local people to experiment with business.

Desired outcome: To inspire local people to try running a market type business by creating opportunities to trade at pop up market events in a disused building in Grays.

Events

Big Local Festival – A one-off event that celebrates the community and culture of Grays building on the successful Big Lunch 2016.

Desired outcome: To bring the community of Grays together in a day of celebration and festival.

Multi-cultural event – An event or series of events that celebrate the ethnic, religious and cultural diversity of Grays and connect disparate parts of the community together. In partnership with Thurrock Council.

Desired outcome: To bring the community of Grays together to focus on those things which unite people and things that they have in common.

Young People

Youth activities – Activities which inspire young people to learn and to aspire to greater things.

Desired outcome: For the youth of Grays to be known for its aspiration, hope and sense of belonging.

Environment

Falconwood Open Space Improvement Project – To create a pocket park from a disused piece of woodland in the heart of Grays.

Desired outcome: For the community to take ownership of a piece of woodland and to create a vibrant community led environment project that educates and inspires whilst creating a valuable community asset.

Literacy Trail – To create a permanent literacy trail in Grays to inspire reading and learning amongst all ages.

Desire outcome: That the people of Grays would find a renewed love for reading and the outdoors.

Other Environmental Projects – To ensure that the local environment continues to improve.

Desired outcome: That as the local community see progress in our Pocket Park and Literacy Trail that new ideas would surface about other public spaces.

Communication

Community Translators – To establish a group of volunteer translators who can help with the promotion of activities, information and events through the diverse languages spoken in Grays.

Desired outcome: To bring the community together more successfully by communicating in the local languages that exist and to aid ethnic and cultural integration.

Newsletter – To create a high-quality quarterly publication that communicates the positive activities of Grays and promotes the work of the Big Local, highlighting the impact it has upon the local community.

Desired outcome: To create a sustainable communication that will engage volunteers with writing positive news articles that are about and of interest to the local community.

Project Promotion – To provide funds for suitable marketing and advertising materials for Big Local projects and events.

Desired outcome: To ensure the successful promotion of all Big Local Projects using all necessary tools, means and methods.

Other

Partnership Support – To continue to employ a part-time project worker to support the Partnership Board and help set-up and run Big Local projects.

Desired outcome: To create capacity for the work of Big Local to be carried out effectively and to ensure that projects are well managed, marketed and governed.

Supporting local initiatives – To be able to support other initiatives that meet the requirements of the Partnership Board mission statement, vision and objectives.

Desired outcome: To ensure that the vision of the Partnership Board can be met in partnership with others.

Community engagement – To have the resources to engage effectively and consistently with local residents and businesses.

Desired outcome: To ensure that the local community are continually informed about and engaged with the work of Big Local and are a driving force behind the future direction of projects and events.